## **CLAIMS**

- An interspecific Nicotiana hybrid of Nicotiana Excelsior x N. Benthamiana, wherein a sample of said seed has been deposited under ATCC Accession No. PTA -323.
- 2. A plant, or its parts, produced by growing the seed of claim 1.
- 3. Pollen of the plant of claim 2.
- 4. An ovule of the plant of claim 2.
- 5. A *Nicotiana* plant having essentially all of the physiological and morphological characteristics of the *Nicotiana* plant of claim 2, or its parts.
- 6. Tissue culture of the seed of claim 1.
- 7. A *Nicotiana* plant regenerated from the tissue culture of claim 6.
- 8. Tissue culture of regenerable cells of the plant, or its parts, of claim 2.
- 9. The tissue culture of claim 8 wherein the regenerable cells are embryos, meristematic cells, pollen, leaves, anthers, roots, root tips, flowers, seeds, stems, pods, or protoplasts or calli derived therefrom.
- 10. A Nicotiana plant regenerated from the tissue culture of claim 9.
- 11. A method of producing backcross progeny from interspecific *Nicotiana* hybrids comprising:
  - a. selecting one parent of an interspecific hybrid as a recurrent parent based on biomass greater than the primary interspecific hybrid;

- b. backcrossing said interspecific hybrid to the recurrent parent and collecting the resulting seed.
- 12. The seed produced from the method of claim 11.
- 13. A *Nicotiana* plant, or its parts, produced by growing the seed of claim 12.
- 14. Tissue culture of regenerable cells of the plant, or its parts, of claim 13, wherein the regenerable cells are selected from the group consisting of: embryos, meristematic cells, pollen, leaves, anthers, roots, root tips, flower, seeds, stems, protoplasts and calli derived therefrom.
- 15. A method of producing backcross progeny from interspecific *Nicotiana* hybrids comprising:
  - selecting one parent of an interspecific hybrid as a recurrent parent based on capacity for high level expression of systemic protein from a viral vector;
  - b. backcrossing said interspecific hybrid to the recurrent parent and collecting the resulting seed.
- 16. The seed produced from the method of claim 15.
- 17. A *Nicotiana* plant, or its parts, produced by growing the seed of claim 16.
- 18. Tissue culture of regenerable cells of the plant, or its parts, of claim 17, wherein the regenerable cells are selected from the group consisting of: embryos, meristematic cells, pollen, leaves, anthers, roots, root tips, flower, seeds, stems, protoplasts and calli derived therefrom.